

Grant Report for Hand Surgery Fellowship in Shandong China

Sudan is one of the largest countries in Africa, with a population of around 37 million. It has suffered from 2 prolonged civil wars between the North and South after its dependence from the United Kingdom at 1956. The first civil war which ended in 1972 broke again in 1983. The second war and famine related effects resulted in more than 2 million deaths in 2 decades and 4 million people displaced. A final North and South comprehensive agreement was signed in January 2005.

There are huge number of Trauma hand patients and the number of specialists is scarce indeed, with lack of great and specialized expertise in the field. For that, I was trying to pursuit fellowship in Hand surgery.

I was offered a generous grant by the Educational Committee of the IFSSH -, to spend Six months hand& Microsurgery Fellowship at Department of Hand and Foot Surgery, Provincial Hospital of Shandong University in China.

Prof Wang is the head of the department and through his secretary he has organized everything for me – Visa, airport pick up and accommodation.

The hospital is huge and has multiple departments with state of the art equipments and research and lab facilities.

There are 6 teams in the department of Hand and Foot Surgery – each is compromised of 2 to 3 specialists – and each team has a certain day as 24 hours emergency oncall.

I was attached with one team to help with emergencies – Tendons, Fractures and reimplants -and their elective day, and the rest of the week was following Prof.Wang 2 Outpatient clinics and 2 Operative days, where he does congenital and complexed Trauma cases and Microsurgery cases

He is very patient and used to explain every case scenarios and operative procedures for me.

Also, I had the chance to learn and enhance my Microsurgery skills in animal lab, which was great indeed.

During my 6 months fellowship, I have attended a very useful flap course run by the department which was really useful.

Now, when I look back, I have gained a lot, and learned much about the field of Hand Surgery-Iam sure there a lot to learn and once iam settled, will try to attend extra specialized courses .

Its mandatory to try to establish a dedicated hand surgery unit, to be able to help my people, challenges might be buying the hand and Micro sets and instruments, and getting help on the start from expert from outside.

I do really appreciate the great help from IFSSH and hopefully, our collaboration will continue in the future.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Sincerely,

Mohamed Abdelrahman,MD

Khartoum, Sudan